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## **Sen. Patterson named legislator of the year**

**LANSING** – Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, was named the first Legislator of the Year by the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners last week.

The award was presented to Patterson for his hard work and dedication discussing and implementing policies concerning the medical field. He received the award at the council's annual clinical conference.

"I am humbled and honored to be the first legislator presented with this great award," Patterson said. "Affordable and accessible health care continues to remain my top priority. I'm glad the council recognizes my commitment to that goal."

A Patterson constituent and Canton Township resident, nurse practitioner Kelley Korona, nominated him for the award. In her nomination proposal, Korona indicated that in 2002, she sent a survey regarding medical provider issues to area candidates running for office. Within 48 hours, she received a personal call from then-Rep. Bruce Patterson who arranged a meeting. Patterson was the only person to phone her in response to her letters.

"It was clear at the time of my first meeting with Bruce that he was interested and engaged in the issues facing nurse practitioners," said Korona. "Since then, he has continued to demonstrate his sincere passion to advocate for all of his constituents, especially in the area of health care."

Patterson serves as vice-chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee.

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**A picture of Sen. Patterson receiving his award is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at <http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/Index.htm>.**